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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
 Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation
 Washington, DC 20505

13 December 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
 Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Director, Intelligence Community Staff
 Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff

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SUBJECT: LANDSAT Commercialization

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1. This memorandum, for your information, briefly reports on the 9 December 1983 meeting of the Interagency Board-Commercialization of Earth Sensing Satellites. This meeting was to review the final draft, revised since Congress blocked the inclusion of the meteorological satellites, of the requests for proposal (RFP) for commercial take-over of the LANDSATs or a follow-on system.

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2. National security interests continue to be well covered. The staff of the House S&T Committee, however, is drafting legislation that would govern such a sale, and the legislation might present problems. Consequently, the process will require watching.

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3. The "final" version of the RFP is perhaps a bit more rational than those that came earlier. It will allow a bidder to propose a system that would not be operative prior to the scheduled end of life of LANDSAT D (c. 1987). It still presumes, however, unspecified but significant US Government subsidies, a position that the OMB representative does not appear to support. A bidder must, consequently, be rich and/or brave.

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4. The RFP is to be issued circa 3 January. The next IB-COESS meeting, consequently, is not expected until late March when a bid should have been received and at least partly evaluated.

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5. You and the SecDef continue to be represented on most of the working-level groups by Air Force officers assigned to the NRO. OGC, continues to represent you on the legal working group.

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